

4

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/471,689	BRINGSJORD ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael B. Holmes	2121	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/29/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 & 3-32 (renumbered as claims 1-31).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted:
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |





UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 – www.USPTO.GOV

Examiner's Detailed Office Action

1. Claims 1 & 3-32 are allowed (renumbered as claims 1-31).
2. Claim 2 has been cancelled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an Examiner's statement for reasons for allowance:

4. The prior art does not teach or render obvious applicant's claimed invention. In particular, as pointed out below, the art lacks certain features and the combination as specified in the respective claim(s).

5. The features recited in independent claim 1 "*...inputting the stage into a simulation engine to play out a series of events over time, thereby to generate a plot, said plot including characters, their characteristics, and their respective interactions, and a history of events and their temporal relationships, said simulation engine including a predetermined randomness such that random elements from said databases are selected.*"

6. The features recited in independent claim 26 "*...simulating, by said simulator, to generate a sequence of events of said story, each event of said sequence being performed by a selected character of said story, thereby to form a scenario of said story; in parallel, selecting a story*

grammar for the story; expanding said story to one of the paragraph level and the sentence level, depending upon the characteristics in said stage and the theme to influence the expansion of the story; and linking the expansion of the story to the scenario and inputting each event into a natural language generator, to produce said story in a natural language."

7. The features recited in independent claim 29 "*...means for inputting the stage into a simulation engine to play out a series of events over time, thereby to generate a plot, said plot including characters, their characteristics, and their respective interactions, and a history of events and their temporal relationships, said simulation engine including a predetermined randomness such that random elements from said databases are selected.*"

8. The features recited in independent claim 30 "*...inputting the stage into a simulation engine to play out a series of events over time, thereby to generate a plot, said plot including characters, their characteristics, and their respective interactions, and a history of events and their temporal relationships, said simulation engine including a predetermined randomness such that random elements from said databases are selected.*"

9. The features recited in independent claim 31 "*...simulating, by said simulator, to generate a sequence of events of said story, each event of said sequence being performed by a selected character of said story, thereby to form a scenario of said story; in parallel, selecting a story grammar for the story; expanding said story to one of the paragraph level and the sentence level, depending upon the characteristics in said stage and the theme to influence the expansion of the story; and linking the expansion of the story to the scenario and inputting each event into a natural language generator, to produce said story in a natural language.*"

Art Unit: 2121

10. The features recited in independent claim 32 “...inputting the stage into said simulation engine to play out a series of events over time, thereby to generate said plot, said plot including characters, their characteristics, and their respective interactions, and a history of events and their temporal relationships, said simulation engine including a predetermined randomness such that random elements from said databases are selected” as mentioned above, the art lacks certain features and the combination when taken in context of the claim(s) as a whole, was not uncovered in the prior art. Moreover, the dependent claims 3-25, 27 & 28 are allowed as they depend upon an allowable independent claim(s).

11. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments regarding Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Correspondence Information

12. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael B. Holmes, who may be reached Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EST. or via telephone at (571) 272-3686 or facsimile transmission (571) 273-3686 or email michael.holmesb@uspto.gov.

If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to (571) 273-8300.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful the Examiner's Supervisor, Anthony Knight, may be reached at (571) 272-3687.

Hand-delivered responses should be delivered to the Receptionist @ (Customer Service Window Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22313), located on the first floor

Art Unit: 2121

of the south side of the Randolph Building.

Finally, information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Moreover, status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) toll-free @ 1-866-217-9197.

Michael B. Holmes

Patent Examiner

Artificial Intelligence

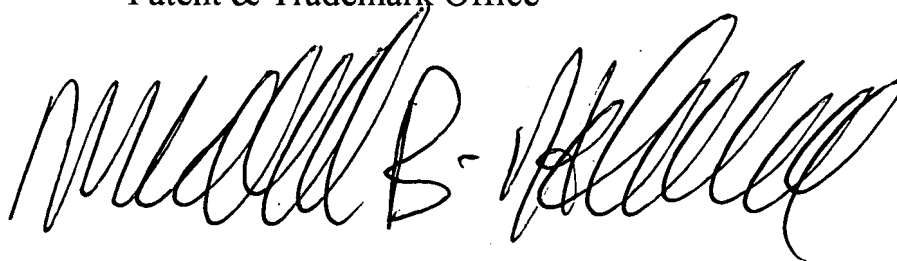
Art Unit 2121

United States Department of Commerce

Patent & Trademark Office

Sunday, September 09, 2007

MBH

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Holmes", is written over the typed name and title.